

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a network system including at least two network devices network connectable so as to be capable of engaging in an instant messaging session, a method for users of the at least two network devices to communicate via instant messaging, the method reducing the amount of input required by the users, the method comprising:

a first network device receiving a first instant message;

automatically, and without user intervention, extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message, including at least one language expression from a data dictionary having language expressions from a previously received instant message;

displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message at the first network device;

receiving a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device; and

including the selected language expressions in a reply instant message to the first instant message.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a first network device receiving a first instant message comprises the following:

a television set top box receiving a first instant message.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the a television set top box receiving a first instant message comprises the following:

a television set top box associated with a cable television network receiving a first instant message.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message comprises the following:

extracting one or more language expressions from the contents of the first instant message.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message comprises the following:

extracting one or more language expressions from closed caption data.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message comprises the following:

extracting one or more language expressions from text manually entered by the user.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message comprises the following:

extracting one or more language expressions from a data dictionary.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message at the first network device comprises the following:

displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message on a video display associated with the first network device.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message on a video display associated with the first network device comprises the following:

displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message on a video display associated with a television.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

displaying other received content on the video display associated with the television.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message and other received content are displayed on the video display simultaneously.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein displaying other received content on the video display comprises the following:

displaying television programming on the video display.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message and television programming are displayed on the video display simultaneously.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message comprising the following:

displaying only some of the one or more language expression associated with the first instant message.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~15~~ 1, further comprising:

scrambling the one or more displayed language expressions associated with the first instant message in order to display one or more other language expressions that were not displayed before the scrambling occurred.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device comprises the following:

receiving from a limited input device a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein receiving from a limited input device a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device comprises the following:

receiving from a remote control a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein receiving from a limited input device a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device comprises the following:

receiving from limited input device a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed on a television.

20. (Original) The method as recited in claim 19, wherein receiving from limited input device a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed on a television comprises the following:

receiving from remote control a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed on a television.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:~~ In a network system including at least two network devices network connectable so as to be capable of engaging in an instant messaging session, a method for users of the at least two network devices to communicate via instant messaging, the method reducing the amount of input required by the users, the method comprising:

a first network device receiving a first instant message;

the first network device displaying one or more icons associated with users of other network devices that are network connectable to the first network device so that each is capable of engaging in an instant messaging session with the user of the first network device;

receiving a user selection of one of the displayed icons, the selection of the displayed icon enabling an instant messaging session to the user of the network device associated with the selected icon;

automatically, and without user intervention, extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message;

displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message at the first network device;

receiving a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device; and

including the selected language expressions in a reply instant message to the first instant message.

22. (Original) The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

displaying previous instant messages received from the user of the network device associated with selected icon.

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising;
- changing the appearance of one or more icons when a specific character sequence not typically occurring in written language is received by the first network device.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing, in a first network device associated with a network system including at least two network devices that are network connectable so as to be capable of engaging in an instant messaging session, a method for users of the at least two network devices to communicate via instant messaging, the method reducing the amount of input required by the users, the computer product comprising:

a computer-readable medium carrying computer-readable instructions, that when executed at the first network device, cause the first network device to perform the following:

receiving a first instant message;

automatically, and without user intervention, extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message;

displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first instant message; and

receiving a user selection of one or more of the displayed language expressions;

scrambling the one or more displayed language expressions associated with the first instant message in order to display one or more other language expressions that were not displayed before the scrambling occurred; and

including the one or more selected language expressions ~~are to be included~~ in a reply instant message to the first instant message.

25. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the computer-readable medium is one or more physical storage media.

26. (Original) In a network system including at least two network devices network connectable so as to be capable of performing electronic mail operations, one of the at least two network devices being a television, a method for users of the at least two network devices to communicate via electronic mail, the method reducing the amount of input required by the users, the method comprising:

a first network device receiving a first electronic mail message;

automatically, and without user intervention, extracting one or more language expressions associated with the first electronic mail message;

displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first electronic mail message at the first network device;

receiving a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device; and

including the selected language expressions in a reply electronic mail message to the first electronic mail message.

27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein receiving a first electronic mail message on a first network device comprises the following:

a television set top box receiving a first electronic mail message.

28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first electronic mail message at the first network device comprises the following:

displaying one or more language expressions associated with the first electronic mail message on a video display associated with a television.

29. (Original) The method as recited in claim 26, wherein receiving a user selection of one or more of the language expressions displayed at the first network device comprises the following:

receiving a user selection of one or more language expressions displayed on a video display associated with a television.

30. (Currently Amended) In a network system including a television set top box associated with a television and one or more network devices, the television set top box and one or more network devices being network connectable so as to be capable of engaging in an instant messaging session, a method for a ~~first-user of a first-network device~~ television set top box associated with a television to determine the capability of a second user to engage in an instant messaging session, the method reducing the amount of input required by users, the method comprising:

displaying an initial status icon to the ~~first-user of the first-network device~~ television set top box so as to represent the second user's capability to engage in an instant messaging session;

associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon;

the ~~first-network device~~ television set top box receiving the specific character sequence associated with the changed status icon; and

displaying the changed status icon to the ~~first-user of the first-network device~~ television set top box so as to represent a change in the second user's capability to engage in an instant messaging session.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the ~~first-network device~~ television set top box receiving the specific character sequence associated with the changed status icon comprises the following:

the ~~first-network device~~ television set top box receiving an instant message that includes the specific character sequence associated with the changed status icon.

32. (Original) The method in claim 30, wherein associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon comprises the following:

associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon that represents the state of the second user.

33. (Original) The method in claim 32, wherein associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon that represents the state of the second user comprises the following:

associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon that represents the second user is offline.

34. (Original) The method in claim 32, wherein associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon that represents the state of the second user comprises the following:

associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon that represents the second user is online and ready to engage in an instant messaging session.

35. (Original) The method in claim 32, wherein associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon that represents the state of the second user comprises the following:

associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon that represents the second user is online but cannot engage in an instant messaging system.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~36~~ 30, wherein the initial status icon and the changed status icon are displayed on a television associated with the television set top box.

38. (Original) The method as recited in claim 30, wherein associating a specific character sequence with a changed status icon comprises the following:

associating a specific character sequence not normally occurring in written language with a changed status icon.

39. (Original) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein associating a specific character sequence not normally occurring in written language with a changed status icon comprises the following:

associating a specific character sequence not normally occurring in written language with a changed status icon that represents the state of the second user.